

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

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| <p>Upper Cook Inlet Finfish January 17 – 29, 2005 Anchorage, Alaska</p> |
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DESIGNATED REPORTER: Sherry Wright

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

COOK INLET

Experimental Fisheries

PROPOSAL NO. 133

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Implement experimental fisheries using different fishing methods and means for salmon, herring and groundfish in Cook Inlet.

DISCUSSION: A commissioner's permit is available for experimental fisheries. Board is opposed to transferring its responsibilities to an additional governing body.

Smelt

PROPOSAL NO. 134

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Create a new commercial smelt fishery in Northern Cook Inlet with dip nets as legal gear.

AMENDMENT: Intent to reauthorize the 1998 commercial smelt fishery regulation using dipnets with a 100-ton harvest cap.

DISCUSSION: Hooligan and smelt stocks are abundant throughout Upper Cook Inlet. The department can use its emergency order to close, if necessary. This fishery may provide some additional economic opportunity.

PROPOSAL NO. 135

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Create a new commercial smelt fishery in Northern Cook Inlet with dip nets as legal gear.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 134.

PROPOSAL NO. 136

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Create a new commercial smelt fishery in Northern Cook Inlet with dip nets as legal gear.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 134.

PROPOSAL NO. 137

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Create a new commercial smelt fishery in Northern Cook Inlet under the authority of a commissioner's permit.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 134.

Herring

PROPOSAL NO. 138

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Include the Kalgin Island Subdistrict in the Central District Herring Recovery Management Plan.

AMENDMENT: Add herring fishing in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict with a guideline harvest range of 0 to 20 tons.

DISCUSSION: These are traditional fishing area levels that are sustainable.

PROPOSAL NO. 139**ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Increase the allowable fishing time in the Upper Subdistrict.**AMENDMENT:** The gill net mesh size is less than 2.0 inches or greater than 2.5 inches**DISCUSSION:** This was conducted as a sac roe fishery, but is primarily used as a bait fishery. Board intent is to include this size in language for proposal 138.**Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan****PROPOSAL NO. 140****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Revise the BEG and OEG in the Kasilof River/Tustumena Lake.**DISCUSSION:** Supplemental production of sockeye salmon is ending as a result of court order. No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 141****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Manage the Kasilof River for MSY and established goals.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan****PROPOSAL NO. 142****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Between July 20 and 31, allow commercial harvest of sockeye if inriver projections are more than 600,000 and king salmon escapement goals are met.**DISCUSSION:** This is a housekeeping measure.**Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan****PROPOSAL NO. 143****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Manage the fishery by setting fishing dates and times based on tide and weather.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 144****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Eliminate mandatory restrictions such as limiting extra fishing time and window closures.**AMENDMENTS:** Eliminated the windows priority over the inriver goal; continue abundance based management in the set gillnet fishery until harvest from two consecutive fishing periods is equal or less than 1 percent of the cumulative total sockeye harvest to date (applies Aug 1-10); In the Kasilof River provide for a season opener when sonar count is less than 50,000 from the mouth of the Kasilof River north to the Blanchard line and south of the mouth of the Kasilof River prior to June 20 (to June 25 – excluding Russian River). It is the intent of the board that while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management plans in this chapter, nothing in the management plans is intended to override the commissioner's emergency order authority should significant new information arise inseason that, in the commissioner's judgment, warrants departure from the provisions in the management plans. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan: Delete department requirement to manage the Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fisheries to minimize the incidental take of Kenai River coho salmon stocks; coho salmon fishing is prohibited from Nov 1 to June 30; any coho must be released without harm, from July 31 to end of king season through October 31, sport fishing from a vessel registered as a guide vessel is restricted; remove the prohibition of taking coho salmon and allows only unbaited, artificial lures to be used from the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake to the Soldotna Bridge. Remove the prohibition of additional drift gillnet fishing periods outside the Kasilof and Kenai sections of the Upper Subdistrict until significant harvestable surpluses of chum are available. Include a 12-hour emergency opening in the "south box." The closure in statistical area 245-70 is intended to go to August 10.

DISCUSSION: Board believes this proposal, as amended will address the mid to upper range of the sockeye abundance and provide the department with clear direction for management. Board discussed potential management problems due to overescapement. Board recognizes that its role is not intended to assist with the inseason management of the fishery. Multiple species and the multiple user groups of Cook Inlet have been taken into consideration in the development of this plan, with many of the stakeholders working together to offer the amended language.

PROPOSAL NO. 145**ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Provide single inriver goal range of 600,00 to 900,000 sockeye for Kenai River.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 146****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Define closure of sockeye fishery to reduce incidental catch of coho salmon.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 147****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Require windows provisions to be followed even if escapement exceeds upper end of optimum escapement goal.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 148****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Reduce Kenai River sockeye escapement goal range to 450,000 – 750,000.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 149****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Restrict nonresidents before restricting residents.**DISCUSSION:** The board cannot discriminate between the harvest of resident and nonresident commercial fishermen. The board is limited in its regulatory authority of the harvest by nonresident and resident sport fishing anglers in that the board can regulate harvest between nonresident and resident anglers that do not sell their fish.**PROPOSAL NO. 150****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Direct the department to manage within established BEG goal range.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 151****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Manage the fisheries based on BEGs rather than OEGs.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**PROPOSAL NO. 152****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Remove reference to opening set gillnet fishery before drift gillnet fishery for product quality.**DISCUSSION:** Current regulations cause an unnecessary burden on the drift fleet. This provision will allow management of the drift and set netters independently, to allow a spread of the harvest to accommodate processors and fishermen. Not all fishermen use the same processors. The board also discussed overwhelming the cannery capacities in a one-day period, and what would happen to the set net fishery the following day.**PROPOSAL NO. 153****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Establish one inriver sonar goal with one guideline harvest level above the sonar for Kenai sockeye.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 154

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Change the OEG range from 500,000-1,000,000 to 500,000-800,000.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 155

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Give the department flexibility to manage for chum salmon yields at a variety of run strengths.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 156

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Direct the department to manage for the lower end of the OEG range in years following high escapements.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 157

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Direct the department to manage for escapement goals first

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSAL NO. 158

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allocate 50 percent of Russian River sockeye to commercial fishery.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 159

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Delete the provisions for inseason restriction on late-run sockeye into the Russian River.

DISCUSSION: Removes part of the regulations that are not used.

Kenai River Coho Salmon Conservation Management Plan

PROPOSAL NO. 160

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Extend coho fishery to Nov. 30 each year for nonguided sport fishing for residents.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 161

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove word “conservation” in Kenai River Coho Salmon Conservation Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 162

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify the Kenai River Coho Salmon Conservation Management Plan

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 163

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open fishery to nonguided sport fishing from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 164

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove restrictions in the coho plan; return to pre-1999 regulations.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 165 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Extend the coho season to Oct. 31.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 166 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Extend coho salmon season in a portion of the Kenai River.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 167 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate season dates and allow department to use EO authority.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 168 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Reinstate the harvest of coho salmon by the public and drift boat guide only from July 1 to Dec 31.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 169 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Repeal restrictions on commercial fishing after August 7 for coho conservation.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 170 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Modify coho regulations that restrict fishing time.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 171 **ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the coho conservation plan; allow management by EO.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 172 **ACTION: Carried as amended**

DESCRIPTION: Remove coho fishing time restrictions for the drift fleet.

AMENDMENTS: In the Central District drift gillnet fishery, in Chinitna Bay, the season opens and closes by emergency order. Statistical areas described by 245-50, 245-55, 245-90 will be open to drift gillnetting during regular periods August 1 through August 10. The provision sunsets Dec. 31, 2007 Remove references to chum and pink salmon in the Northern District Salmon Management Plan. South of 60.42.30 latitude 151.42.30 longitude (a point on the southeast West Foreland) and seaward to one mile from mean low water, the season opens August 11 and is closed by emergency order.

DISCUSSION: There are big fly-out sport fish operations in the westside streams of Cook Inlet. There are coho salmon available all the way through August. Department can use emergency order authority for closures, as needed.

COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING

Seasons, Weekly fishing periods, Boundaries

PROPOSAL NO. 173 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Redefine Kasilof boundary to reduce bycatch headed toward the Kenai River.

DISCUSSION: This would disrupt current fishing patterns with no biological justification.

PROPOSAL NO. 174 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Clarify language for closed waters around the terminus of Big River.

DISCUSSION: At certain tide zones, it is possible this would create open areas that would vary. It is primarily used by setnetters and has been in effect since 1924. It would be difficult for enforcement to determine a boundary based on mean high tide.

PROPOSAL NO. 175

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Repeal window/mandatory corridor restriction for drift fleet in Northern District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 176

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Close fishery by EO to prevent overescapement and waste.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 177

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Change scheduled days for regular periods for the Central District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 178

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove the regular period restrictions for drift fleet in the Northern District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 179

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Change scheduled days for regular periods for the Central District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 180

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Alternate fishing periods between gillnetters and driftnetters.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 181

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close all waters of Cook Inlet north of the Kenai River to all commercial fishing.

DISCUSSION: A closure such as this would cause problems in the remainder of the Cook Inlet fisheries, and the closure is not justifiable.

PROPOSAL NO. 182

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Establish inriver OEG in Northern Cook Inlet to include Knik Arm, Turnagain Arm, and Susitna drainage.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 183

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow commercial fishing to continue on Mondays and Thursdays until closed by EO.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 184

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Extend Northern District fishing time to 12 hours instead of six.

DISCUSSION: The six-hour period does not allow enough time to fish the tides in this area. The set netters have developed a niche Anchorage market. There is an average harvest of 2,000 kings. This will afford additional opportunity to the fishers.

PROPOSAL NO. 185

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase Northern District Chinook fishing time.

DISCUSSION: A small opportunity to harvest some of the under-utilized kings would be provided. The area currently opens on May 25 and there are markets for early fish with prices generally higher at that time. Although the fishery could be closed by emergency order if it is anticipated that it would exceed the cap, there was a conservation concern expressed of the inriver Deshka users impact. Board prefers to find out the impact of previous additional fishing time allowed by proposal 184.

PROPOSAL NO. 186

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Alter Northern District fishing times due to climatic weather changes.

DISCUSSION: This would be a difficult way to manage the fishery. There are other tools available to allow for prosecution of the fishery when weather prevents fishing time.

PROPOSAL NO. 187

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow more fishing time in the area one mile south of Theodore River to the Susitna River.

DISCUSSION: Concern of the lack of meeting escapement goals in this area. There are fairly restrictive regulations to the sports fishing industry in this area due to pressure.

PROPOSAL NO. 188

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Repeal selected restrictions in the Northern District Management.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 189

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow three 12-hour periods per week in the Central District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 190

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open the Central District on June 25 and close Sept. 1; allow three 12-hour periods per week; reinstate salmon spotting; increase drift gear to 200 fathoms; and allow monofilament web.

DISCUSSION: The concept of an "A-B fleet" is too complicated for Cook Inlet, and dual permit holders have many complexities.

PROPOSAL NO. 191

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the limitations on extra fishing time, mandatory closed windows, closed areas.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 192

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Manage for a Yentna River sockeye salmon OEG of 60,000 to 100,000.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 193

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open the Big River sockeye fishery May 1, allow operation of two gillnets at one time and increase Chinook cap to 1500.

DISCUSSION: This is a fully allocated fishery.

PROPOSAL NO. 194

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove some restrictions on the drift fleet in the Northern District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 195

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow drift gillnet fishing in the Central District to fish until December 31.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 172.

PROPOSAL NO. 196

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Provide a new OEG for the Yentna River in the Northern District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 172.

PROPOSAL NO. 197

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow drift gillnet fishing in the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict through September 15.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 172.

PROPOSAL NO. 198

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: In the Northern District, remove the restriction to one regular period between July 9 and July 15 for the driftnet fleet.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 172.

PROPOSAL NO. 199

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Change seasons dates and area to increase opportunity for the drift fleet to harvest king salmon in the Northern District.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 184.

PROPOSAL NO. 200

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Open commercial salmon fishing the first Monday in the third week of June.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 201

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow the Kenai and East Foreland Sections of the Upper Subdistrict to open July 4 or first regular period thereafter.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 202

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow the Kenai and East Foreland Sections of the Upper Subdistrict to open July 5 or the first regular period thereafter.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 203

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow the department to postpone or defer a regular fishing period based on impending storms. Allow an eight-hour period on regular fishing days between Aug. 7 and Aug. 15 to harvest surplus pinks and sockeye.

DISCUSSION: Cook Inlet area is very large and winds are not consistent throughout the area.

PROPOSAL NO. 204

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow an eight-hour period on regular fishing days between Aug 7 and Aug 15 to harvest surplus pinks and sockeye.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 205

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Redefine boundary line of the Kenai and Kasilof sections

AMENDMENT: Line will be repositioned to: 60° 27.1 N 151° 25.7 W

DISCUSSION: This will move the offshore line of the Kenai and Kasilof sections west 0.2 miles (approximately 1200 feet).

PROPOSAL NO. 206**ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Move Packers Creek closed water marker to the pre-1999 location.**DISCUSSION:** This will restore the marker to a pre-1999 location.**PROPOSAL NO. 207****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Move Packers Creek closed water marker to the pre-1999 location.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 206.**PROPOSAL NO. 208****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Move Packers Creek closed water marker to one mile from the creek.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 206.**PROPOSAL NO. 209****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Move Packers Creek closed water marker to one mile from the creek.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 206.**PROPOSAL NO. 210****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Move the boundaries at Packers Creek to northern corner of homestead.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 206.**PROPOSAL NO. 211****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Open the Central District on June 15 and close on August 20.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**Gear, Registration, and Reporting****PROPOSAL NO. 212****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Delete gear restrictions in the Northern District.**DISCUSSION:** This proposal addresses the August 1 – 10 fishing period. The provision was originally put in place due to a concern of coho conservation. Data shows a limited harvest of coho during this time.**PROPOSAL NO. 213****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Continue to allow single-strand nylon gillnet web in Cook Inlet.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 214.**PROPOSAL NO. 214****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Allow use of monofilament gillnet.**AMENDMENT:** Include one 35-fathom set gill net in Cook Inlet area. Sunset December 31, 2007.**DISCUSSION:** Both set and drift gillnet fishermen may participate in this experimental fishery. Commissioner will have the ability to use emergency order if the department finds there are adverse effects by the use of this gear.**PROPOSAL NO. 215****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Allow use of troll gear for salmon and other bycatch.**DISCUSSION:** Only persons qualified are those who hold a current CFEC troll permit. This would require a companion action by CFEC. This is a fully allocated fishery.**PROPOSAL NO. 216****ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Allow permit holder to use a fyke net.

DISCUSSION: This would be more appropriately reviewed by the salmon restructuring panel for future recommendations. Board sees a fyke net as a fishtrap, which method of harvest is denied by current statute.

PROPOSAL NO. 217

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: In Kenai and Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict, a set gillnet may not be more than 29 meshes in depth.

DISCUSSION: This would be a drastic change in the set net fishery creating potential economic loss and financial burden to restructure nets.

PROPOSAL NO. 218

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create a purse seine coop in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

DISCUSSION: Board prefers the use of a commissioner's permit to conduct experimental fisheries. Concern was expressed of adding another user to a fully-allocated fishery. Although the pink salmon are underutilized, these streams are some of the most popular streams in the United States, and therefore, would not be a good location for this type of test fishery. A concern of bycatch was expressed, as well as the fact that the price of pinks is low at this time.

PROPOSAL NO. 219

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Decrease amount and length of set gillnets allowed.

DISCUSSION: There is a long history of economic importance to the region and to the state in these fully-allocated fisheries. Board attempts to improve the management of these fisheries with its actions, as well as maintain a balance in the allocation.

PROPOSAL NO. 220

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Report commercially- and sport-caught chinook by the same standard.

DISCUSSION: Information on chinook catch is collected in the commercial fishery by processors. A conservation concern of no reporting requirement on jack salmon in the sport fishery was expressed; however, there are monitoring efforts by the department for this issue.

PROPOSAL NO. 221

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow the formation of setnet coops including up to ten permits.

DISCUSSION: There is a regulation in place for Kodiak to form joint ventures for two permit holders. The intent was to legalize allowing one permit holder to sign off on the fish ticket, not to create an absentee owner situation. This may require some statutory changes.

PROPOSAL NO. 222

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow drift nets to go partially dry and remain a legal gillnet.

DISCUSSION: No action due to the request to withdraw by proponent. The board noted that allowing nets to go dry could create an enforcement problem.

PROPOSAL NO. 223

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Permit the use of an aircraft to assist drift gillnet fishermen in the Central District.

DISCUSSION: Spotter planes are a tool to the fishermen, may create jobs and potentially reduces vessel costs, although there would be cost for hiring aircraft. The board found no clear cut advantage to using a plane, so the action would not provide a significant advantage.

PROPOSAL NO. 224

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow use of drift gillnet 60 meshes in depth rather than 45 meshes in depth.

DISCUSSION: Current regulations are working.

PROPOSAL NO. 225**ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Omit requirement of set netters to register before each fishing season.**DISCUSSION:** The current regulation is important for set netters and for fishery managers.**PROPOSAL NO. 226****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Omit requirement for set netters to purchase and use buoy stickers to identify gear.**DISCUSSION:** The current regulation is important for enforcement personnel and for fishery managers.**Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan****PROPOSAL NO. 227****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Establish 56/44 harvest rate as a goal in Upper Cook Inlet management plan.**DISCUSSION:** Currently no allocation percentages are in regulatory language. The runs vary, so allowances for future allocations would need to be considered.**PROPOSAL NO. 228****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Allow more fishing time in the Northern District.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 184.**PROPOSAL NO. 229****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Allow formation of coops.**DISCUSSION:** The board's salmon restructuring panel is currently reviewing this issue and the board preferred to wait until recommendations might be seen from that panel.**PROPOSAL NO. 230****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Create an early season fishery in the Kalgin Island Subdistrict.**AMENDMENT:** Open the west side of Kalgin Island and provide a boundary description**DISCUSSION:** An early season will provide an opportunity for setnetters. Many of the participants will be direct marketing to the Anchorage market. The provision of a cap of 1,000 will prevent an overharvest of kings.**PROPOSAL NO. 231****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Return management plan to pre-1999.**AMENDMENTS:** Delete the "guiding principles" for Upper Cook Inlet salmon.**DISCUSSION:** Many of the same principles are clarified in the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy, and are duplicative. The requirement of use of guiding principles that are already covered in other policies in regulation instead creates more of a hardship in the board process and serves no meaningful purpose.**PROPOSAL NO. 232****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Develop a catch and effort reporting system in UCI fisheries.**DISCUSSION:** Board lacks authority to direct how funds are expended by the department. This also will be costly for management to implement.**PROPOSAL NO. 233****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Allow additional fishing time during regular periods to follow quality handling guidelines set out in Cook Inlet salmon branding program.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 234

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove hour and time limitations ; provide direction to manage for inriver goals.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 235

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 236

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Provide direction to the department on sharing the burden of conservation.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 237

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove time and hour limitations in the management plans.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 238

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Manage salmon stocks for high quality commercial uses from June 20 through August 20.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 239

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove regulations that limit the commissioner's EO authority.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 240

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Identify coho salmon as a consumptive use stock for harvest as a food resource in Northern Cook Inlet.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 241

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Identify coho salmon as a consumptive use stock for harvest as a food resource in the Cook Inlet Area.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 242

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Manage for maximum sustained yield of major salmon stocks; permit use of EOs to promote management flexibility.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

PROPOSAL NO. 243

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify fishing periods and areas to improve quality and stabilize industry.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 231.

Upper Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan

PROPOSAL NO. 244

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Remove sunset clause in management plan.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 245

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Standardize closed waters definitions along the West Side of Cook Inlet.

DISCUSSION: No action based on request for withdrawal by proposer.

PROPOSAL NO. 246

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow harvest of pinks bound for Kenai River and other tributaries of Cook Inlet.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

PROPOSAL NO. 247

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Manage the harvest of pink salmon by use of EO authority.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 144.

SPORT FISHING - KENAI PENINSULA AND NORTHERN COOK INLET

PROPOSAL NO. 248

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing in spawning areas when spawning fish are present.

DISCUSSION: Spawning closures are already in place in various drainages. The scope of this proposal is too broad for the department to identify areas that would be closed.

PROPOSAL NO. 249

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing in tributaries and mainstem spawning areas when spawning fish are present.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 248.

PROPOSAL NO. 250

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Decrease annual limits for nonresident anglers.

DISCUSSION: There is no present method of recording or documenting nonresident angler harvest of fish that do not have an annual limit regulation. Decreasing annual limits could have a negative impact on tourism. Annual average harvest of residents and nonresidents are very similar. Department of Law expressed concern of this proposal being too broad in covering the entire area, rather than basing its reason on a specific and fully-utilized system.

PROPOSAL NO. 251

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require all anglers to display their license in clear view while fishing.

DISCUSSION: Enforcement personnel would still have to personally check each and every angler license even with outward display of license, providing no enforcement value.

PROPOSAL NO. 252

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase the opportunity to harvest pike.

DISCUSSION: Department already maintains invasive species list of lakes as part of regular management activities, making this unnecessary.

PROPOSAL NO. 253

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Create a management plan for guided sport fishing.

DISCUSSION: Due to the implementation of HB 452.

PROPOSAL NO. 254

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Commercial guides can only guide three days per week.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 283.

PROPOSAL NO. 255

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require fishing guides to complete a freshwater logbook.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 253.

PROPOSAL NO. 256

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require guides to register to operate in an area.

DISCUSSION: Requiring guide registration in areas may increase crowding issues at some of the more popular fishing areas and would also pose enforcement problems.

PROPOSAL NO. 257

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require derbies to occur only in saltwater on surplus or enhanced stocks.

DISCUSSION: Board has limited regulatory authority to promulgate regulations for fishing derby activities.

SPORT FISHING - KENAI PENINSULA

Kenai River Resident Species

PROPOSAL NO. 258

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Amend existing wild trout regulations to conform to the statewide standards.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 260.

PROPOSAL NO. 259

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform the rainbow trout bag and possession limits.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 260.

PROPOSAL NO. 260

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform the rainbow trout bag and possession limits.

AMENDMENTS: In Kenai River drainage lakes and ponds, adopt statewide standards: two fish per day, only one per day over 20 inches; annual limit of two trout over 20 inches. In flowing waters above Skilak Lake: one fish per day; 16 inches maximum size; no annual limit. In flowing waters below Skilak Lake and including Skilak Lake: one fish per day; maximum size limit of 18 inches; no annual limit. In flowing waters entire river, including Skilak Lake: open season June 11-May 1.

DISCUSSION: Conforms to statewide standards on rainbow trout for consistency. This further addresses the management issues of harvest, maximum size limits and season dates. Data suggests a one fish bag limit is sustainable based on population size and expected harvest.

PROPOSAL NO. 261

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform the rainbow trout and Dolly Varden bag and possession limits.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 260.

PROPOSAL NO. 262

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform the rainbow trout and Dolly Varden seasons, and bag and possession limits.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 260.

PROPOSAL NO. 263

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform the rainbow trout and Dolly Varden regulations below Skilak Lake.

DISCUSSION: Current management framework already provides additional protection to these species, as well as king salmon.

PROPOSAL NO. 264

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Establish a special management area for Dolly Varden.

AMENDMENTS: In Kenai River drainage lakes and ponds: two fish per day, only one fish over 20 inches; no annual limit. In flowing waters above Skilak Lake: one fish per day, maximum size limit of 16 inches; open season June 11-May 1; no annual limit. In flowing waters below Skilak Lake, including Skilak Lake: one fish per day, maximum size limit of 18 inches; no annual limit; no closed season.

DISCUSSION: Skilak Lake is a natural divider of the upper and lower Kenai River. Biological data indicates a sustainable surplus for harvest on this stock and this lends consistency to regulations on this fishery.

PROPOSAL NO. 265

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform Dolly Varden bag and possession limits.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 264.

PROPOSAL NO. 266

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Make uniform Dolly Varden seasons, bag and possession limits.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 264.

PROPOSAL NO. 267

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify Dolly Varden season to protect rainbow trout spawning beds..

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 264.

PROPOSAL NO. 268

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close the outlet of Skilak Lake to fishing.

DISCUSSION: There is no biological concern on this stock. Anglers should be allowed to continue to harvest fish in the lake.

PROPOSAL NO. 269

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit multiple hooks in all waters within ½ mile radius of the outlet of Skilak Lake.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 268.

PROPOSAL NO. 270

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Remove bait restrictions upstream from Killey River and downstream from Skilak Lake.

AMENDMENT: November 1 to December 31 only unbaited, artificial lures are allowed in the Kenai River upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake

DISCUSSION: Bait restrictions are part of the conservation measures adopted with the coho conservation management plan. The fishing effort will be more evenly distributed across a larger section of the river.

PROPOSAL NO. 271

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing from an anchored vessel near the outlet of Skilak Lake.

DISCUSSION: Department of Natural Resources regulations stipulate that no one may anchor a boat such that it obstructs the primary traffic channel from mid-May through July. Board probably lacks authority to implement this proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 272

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Change the legal hook gap to 3/8 inch or less in the upper Kenai River.

AMENDMENTS: From June 11-May 1, the Kenai River from Skilak Lake, including the waters of Skilak Lake within one-half mile radius of the Kenai River inlet, upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge at Mile Post 53, only one single hook with a hook gap between point and shank of three-eighths inch or less; intent is to include the Russian River.

DISCUSSION: This serves to simplify regulations in the area. The size hook restriction will also pose less injury to fish which are caught and released.

Russian River**PROPOSAL NO. 273****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Close the Russian River to fishing between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.**DISCUSSION:** There is rarely a bear problem on the river and no reason to limit fishing opportunity. Board stated it will write a letter addressing concern over human/bear conflict.**PROPOSAL NO. 274****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Close the Russian River to fishing between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 273.**PROPOSAL NO. 275****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Establish a closed fishing zone within the Russian River Sanctuary.**DISCUSSION:** There is no biological concern to warrant this action.**Kenai River****PROPOSAL NO. 276****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit fishing from a motorized vessel on the Kenai River.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 278.**PROPOSAL NO. 277****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit fishing from a motorized vessel on the Kenai River on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the king salmon season.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 278.**PROPOSAL NO. 278****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit fishing from a motorized vessel between Skilak Lake and the Soldotna Bridge on Wednesdays during the king salmon season.**DISCUSSION:** Kenai River drainages do not currently have facilities that could support a drift-only fishery. It could create congestion in relatively few fishing locations downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge crossing at Soldotna. The board found that this action is much too restrictive covering a large section of the Kenai River.**PROPOSAL NO. 279****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Allow fishing from vessels equipped with 50 horsepower four-stroke motors.**DISCUSSION:** The Department of Natural Resources is the entity with authority to regulate horsepower within the Kenai River Special Management Area. Board lacks authority.**PROPOSAL NO. 280****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit nonresidents from fishing from a boat for king salmon downstream from Skilak Lake.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 281.**PROPOSAL NO. 281****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Eliminate the prohibition of nonresidents fishing from a boat on the Kenai from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am.**AMENDMENT:** Remove reference to "address the real problem: too many guide boats operating on the river."**DISCUSSION:** Board does not believe this prohibition provides for conservation, and unduly restricts residents who fish with nonresident family members or friends.**PROPOSAL NO. 282****ACTION: No action**

DESCRIPTION: Allow nonresidents to fish from a boat for king salmon and restrict the time when fishing from a guided vessel is allowed.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 281.

PROPOSAL NO. 283

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Develop allocations between guided/nonguided and resident/nonresident anglers.

DISCUSSION: Resident /disabled anglers who choose to fish with guides may be adversely affected by guide restrictions. However, separate allocations may not increase unguided and/or resident effort and harvest. There is work in progress by the user groups in the area. Logbook and licensing requirements of guides will assist the board in evaluating this fishery at subsequent meetings. There will be some additional benefit to residents and unguided anglers during the time periods stated in proposal 295.

PROPOSAL NO. 284

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Extend time and area of early-run king salmon slot limit.

DISCUSSION: There is no conservation concern for late run 5-ocean fish. The slot limit was implemented for early-run fishery to allow the age composition of the catch to mirror or more closely reflect the age composition of fish returning to the river. The slot limit extension might be a regulatory mechanism that restricts participation (i.e., public does not care to fish if not allowed to keep a big fish).

PROPOSAL NO. 285

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow bait in the early-run king salmon fishery when the projected escapement is in the upper half of the BEG range.

DISCUSSION: Allowing bait will not allow the escapement number to be close to the upper end of the escapement goal range. There would be a biological concern of harvest more fish.

PROPOSAL NO. 286

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase the length limit of jack king salmon to 28 inches or less; set new bag and possession limits.

DISCUSSION: Almost all king salmon in the Kenai River returns that are between 20 and 28 inch are 2-ocean fish. The female component of fish 28 inches and under is believed to be somewhere around 35 percent. A small percentage of those fish could be classified as spawners. It is believed there would be a minimal additional harvest of around 400-500 fish. The larger female fish found in commercial harvest are more full of eggs. The length established in defining a jack salmon was originally to allow additional harvest on a statewide basis. Board expressed concern of going back to redefine a jack salmon system by system.

PROPOSAL NO. 287

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing for jack salmon in waters closed to large salmon.

DISCUSSION: Areas closed to fishing for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and other salmon 16 inches or greater in length are intended to protect spawning fish while allowing the harvest of smaller 1-ocean jack salmon. While creating harvest opportunity, the regulation renders salmon closures unenforceable because anglers have targeted large king salmon claiming they are fishing for jacks. Enforcement personnel can do little to protect the resource in these cases.

PROPOSAL NO. 288

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of bait above the Soldotna Bridge until August 31.

DISCUSSION: There are conflicts with coho salmon fishing regulations in this section of the Kenai River. There is no biological concern to restrict bait and this would restrict fishing opportunity.

PROPOSAL NO. 289**ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Open the Kenai River Keys area to bank fishing.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 292.**PROPOSAL NO. 290****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Extend seasonally closed waters until the end of king salmon season.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 292.**PROPOSAL NO. 291****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Increase seasonally closed waters area from Third Hole to the Upper Killey River.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 292.**PROPOSAL NO. 292****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Open sanctuary areas to fishing for species other than king salmon.**AMENDMENT:** Provide opportunity for sockeye salmon fishing within the sanctuary areas of the Funny River, Slikok, Moose Rivers and Wally's Third Hole. The area is designated as fly fishing only and gear is restricted as defined in 5 AAC 75.024. No fishing from vessels, no retention of king salmon.**DISCUSSION:** Management plans have been conservatively structured to constrain the ability of the angling public to harvest early-run stocks at sustainable levels while still providing for fishing opportunity. Exploitation rates during past seasons have exceeded 60 percent. This will provide a fishing opportunity for sockeye harvest. It is biologically justifiable because it will not increase exploitation on king salmon spawning in these areas.**PROPOSAL NO. 293****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Close area between Upper Killey River to Skilak Lake to fishing for king salmon.**DISCUSSION:** Closing the area is not necessary as a conservation measure, and would close four miles of river to fishing. This could cause more crowding of anglers who normally are fishing over four miles of river into Killey River area.**PROPOSAL NO. 294****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Close area between Upper Killey River to Skilak Lake to fishing for sockeye salmon during August.**DISCUSSION:** The area does have spawning fish but is a pass through area, and a high priority area for fishing for sockeye salmon. Anglers do not harvest spawning fish in this area. There is no conservation concern.**PROPOSAL NO. 295****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Increase the coho bag and possession limit to three fish; open fishing for king and coho salmon Aug. 1-3 for unguided, resident anglers.**AMENDMENT:** Allow anglers to continue to fish for coho after they retain their bag limit from the Soldotna bridge to regulatory markers at Skilak Lake. No bait Sept 1 – Dec 31 in the Kenai River from the mouth of the Upper Killey River upstream to the ADF&G regulatory markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake. The department may extend the king salmon season by emergency order, for the first seven days in August if the escapement goal for king salmon is projected to be exceeded.**DISCUSSION:** Coho salmon are in a period of recovery, and a daily limit increase is not warranted. Anglers do not need to fully utilize coho or increase exploitation. A bag limit of two has contributed to the recovery. This regulation will allow additional opportunity in a catch-and-

release fishery. This is already occurring on the river, as fishers catch and release through the day, until later, then keep their second fish.

PROPOSAL NO. 296 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Close sport fishing on the Kenai River from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
DISCUSSION: The board saw this action as too broad.

PROPOSAL NO. 297 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Allow children to fish for “mud fish.”
DISCUSSION: The board stated this would be difficult to enforce.

PROPOSAL NO. 298 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit nonresidents from exporting more than 125 pounds of fish.
DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 250.

Kenai River Guides

PROPOSAL NO. 299 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Apply guided fishing requirements to rented and leased boats.
DISCUSSION: Board does not have authority to regulate based on whether the boat is owned or leased. This would create a reduced opportunity for public participation, as it would restrict resident anglers that rent boats for fishing on guide days during guide hours (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday). Rental boats would need to be marked in some way to distinguish them on the river. There is no way to quantify the magnitude of the problem and no way to enforce.

PROPOSAL NO. 300 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Apply guided fishing requirements to rented and leased boats.
DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 299.

PROPOSAL NO. 301 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit guide boats from interfering with unguided anglers prior to 6 a.m.
DISCUSSION: Current regulations prohibiting interference with sport fishing is difficult to enforce. It is easier to regulate presence and/or fishing activity. This creates a regulatory complexity that could be added to existing Department of Natural Resources Kenai River Special Management Area guide stipulations. There are limited boat launch sites on the river.

PROPOSAL NO. 302 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit guide boats from being underway on the river prior to 6 a.m.
DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 301.

PROPOSAL NO. 303 **ACTION: No action**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit guide boats from being on the river between 5:50 a.m. and 6:10 p.m.
DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 301.

PROPOSAL NO. 304 **ACTION: Failed**
DESCRIPTION: Restrict guided anglers to drift boats only on Mondays and Tuesdays in 2004, add another day each year until 2009; restrict hours when fishing from a guided vessel is allowed.
DISCUSSION: This proposal is too restrictive. There is a lack of infrastructure to support a drift boat only fishery and it conflicts with unguided anglers on “drift boat only” Mondays.

PROPOSAL NO. 305 **ACTION: Failed**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing from a guided vessel on Sundays, Mondays, or Wednesdays during the king salmon season.

DISCUSSION: This prohibition would create a 20 percent reduction in guided angler hours when there is no biological need, and could affect resident anglers.

PROPOSAL NO. 306

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow residents to fish from a guided vessel on Sundays and Mondays during the king salmon season and on Mondays in August.

DISCUSSION: Disability exemptions already exist in regulation. The department handles claims on a case-by-case basis through a commissioner's permit as consistent with the American with Disabilities Act. Residents and/or disabled people have 60 hours per week to fish from registered guide boats.

PROPOSAL NO. 307

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Designate one day per week during late-run king salmon fishery for guided anglers only.

DISCUSSION: There was a concern that guided anglers already harvest more king salmon than unguided anglers, which could impact the late-run king escapement goals.

PROPOSAL NO. 308

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow guided fishing seven days per week, and limit individual guides to operating only five days per week.

DISCUSSION: The board sees enforcement difficulties, as enforcement personnel would have to keep track of every guide every day of the week. Residents do not want to compete with guide boats. If the guided fleet is not operating at full capacity, guided angler effort may increase by introducing additional days per week for guided anglers to choose from.

PROPOSAL NO. 309

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow guided vessels to carry five clients.

DISCUSSION: This would allow for an increased total number of guided anglers (same number of boats with one more angler per boat) which could lead to an increase in harvest. More weight in the boat, and the potential larger horsepower engine needed, could cause larger wakes.

PROPOSAL NO. 310

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require commercial operators to complete a freshwater logbook.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 253.

PROPOSAL NO. 311

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Require fishing guides to report their daily harvest.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 253.

Kasilof River

PROPOSAL NO. 312

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of naturally produced early-run king salmon.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 313.

PROPOSAL NO. 313

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of naturally produced early-run king salmon.

AMENDMENTS: Multiple hooks allowed in both early and late runs. Continue to fish after retention of king salmon bag limit while Kasilof is open to king salmon fishing, early and late run. Daily bag limit of one king. Annual limit of five king salmon. During the early run, naturally-

produced king salmon may be retained on Tuesdays and Saturdays only. E.O. authority may be used to liberalize the early run fishery by increasing the days allowed to retain naturally produced king salmon.

DISCUSSION: This allows maximum opportunity, increases harvest of hatchery fish, allows a limited harvest of natural fish and avoids the huge transfer of effort that a two fish daily limit would bring to the Kasilof River.

PROPOSAL NO. 314

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow the harvest of naturally produced early-run king salmon.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 313.

PROPOSAL NO. 315

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase the annual limit of hatchery fish.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 313.

PROPOSAL NO. 316

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close the Kasilof River to guiding when the Kenai River is closed to guiding.

DISCUSSION: Guides are needed to help harvest excess hatchery fish. This could cause a balloon effect to other nearby fisheries and would limit access for disabled anglers.

PROPOSAL NO. 317

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit guide boats and guided angling on Sundays and Mondays during the king salmon season.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 316.

PROPOSAL NO. 318

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing from a guided motorized vessel.

DISCUSSION: Prohibits local residents and those who live on the river from fishing from a boat with an outboard motor. There is not a biological problem on stocks and a relatively small fishery occurs outside of king season.

PROPOSAL NO. 319

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing from a motorized vessel downstream of Sterling Highway Bridge.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to the request to withdraw proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 320

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Modify the guide requirement to display registration numbers.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action due to the implementation of HB 452 and previous action by the board at the Lower Cook Inlet 2004 meeting.

Personal Use

PROPOSAL NO. 321

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Limit dip nets to a maximum mesh size of three inches.

DISCUSSION: Having different mesh sizes for different areas creates confusion to users.

PROPOSAL NO. 322

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Limit dip nets to a maximum mesh size of three inches.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 321.

PROPOSAL NO. 323

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Limit dip nets to a maximum mesh size of 2 ½ inches.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 321.

PROPOSAL NO. 324

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow rod and reel as a personal use gear type.

DISCUSSION: Liberalizing fisheries is already covered by EO authority. The introduction of this gear type would likely result in user conflicts. Board expressed concern because of the historical use of rod and reel for sport fishing. Current regulations provide ample opportunity for sport fishermen to harvest more fish per year than is available in UCI personal use dipnet or setnet salmon fisheries.

PROPOSAL NO. 325

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Create a personal use management plan for Upper Cook Inlet.

DISCUSSION: Department already has a personal use management plan which liberalizes the personal use fishery with additional time per area. Current data indicates that a maximum of 16 percent of households attain their bag limit. An abundance-based liberalization would also be difficult for the department to manage because of differing inriver and optimal escapement goals described in the Kenai River late run sockeye salmon management plan.

PROPOSAL NO. 326

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Restrict season and fishing times of the dip net fishery.

DISCUSSION: The board found no biological need for this.

PROPOSAL NO. 327

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Reduce household bag limit based on household size.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 325.

PROPOSAL NO. 328

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Reduce household bag limit.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 325.

PROPOSAL NO. 329

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Reduce household bag limit and establish a maximum percentage of harvest allowed from the Kenai River.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 325.

PROPOSAL NO. 330

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Extend the season into August when only pink salmon may be retained and establish a percentage of harvest that must be Kenai River pink salmon.

DISCUSSION: Board lacks authority to make harvest of pink salmon mandatory.

PROPOSAL NO. 331

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow for the harvest of flounder.

AMENDMENTS: Establish permit limit of ten fish; harvest must be recorded on harvest report.

DISCUSSION: Flounder resource is not currently utilized. Even a small bag limit of the flounder bycatch would provide variety in table fare and add to salmon takes. Anecdotally reported large number are netted and released in the personal use fishery each year.

PROPOSAL NO. 332

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of guide boats in the personal use fisheries.

DISCUSSION: Guides cannot personal use fish from a registered guide boat. This would restrict resident personal use fishermen without a boat from using a guide. There is no biological concern.

PROPOSAL NO. 333**ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit the use of guide boats in the personal use fisheries.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 332.**PROPOSAL NO. 334****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit the use of guide boats in the personal use fisheries.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 253.**PROPOSAL NO. 335****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Allow use of small, hand-drift gillnets for harvest of hooligan in the Kenai River.**DISCUSSION:** Current regulations already exist.**Riparian Habitat****PROPOSAL NO. 336****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Add to the list of sensitive riparian habitat areas that are closed seasonally to fishing on the Kenai River.**DISCUSSION:** This is a housekeeping proposal.**PROPOSAL NO. 337****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Add to the list of sensitive riparian habitat areas that are closed seasonally to fishing on the Kenai River and post those areas as no-wake zones.**DISCUSSION:** This is very similar to Proposal 336. There is a boat wake study currently underway.**SPORT FISHING – NORTHERN COOK INLET****Northern District Salmon Management Plan****PROPOSAL NO. 338****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Require the BEG goals for maximum sustained yield be followed.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 144.**Susitna River****PROPOSAL NO. 339****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Open a portion of Alexander Creek to catch-and-release only fishing.**DISCUSSION:** Currently, escapement levels are low, and there is a high level of pike predation. This is the earliest doted king salmon fishery in the area. The population cannot provide for catch-and-release mortality.**PROPOSAL NO. 340****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Close the Alexander Creek drainage to king salmon fishing.**DISCUSSION:** The resource can handle the current catch-and-release level that is taking place.**PROPOSAL NO. 341****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Close the mouth of Alexander Creek to king salmon fishing.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 340.**PROPOSAL NO. 342****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Create a Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: The department currently has tools to manage this fishery, and there are no allocation problems in the river. This proposal ties liberalization to weir counts on the Deshka River and department may not always operate the weir. In addition, it is uncertain when the weir is placed each year due to water levels.

PROPOSAL NO. 343**ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Create a Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 342.**PROPOSAL NO. 344****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Allow the use of bait earlier in the Deshka River drainage.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 345.**PROPOSAL NO. 345****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Allow the use of bait earlier in the Deshka River drainage.**DISCUSSION:** There is a healthy amount of king salmon in river and a weir in this system. Even with a projection of 10,000 fewer fish next year and allowing the use of bait, the department estimates the escapement will be more than 8,000 fish above the goal.**PROPOSAL NO. 346****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Extend the king salmon fishing season in the Deshka River.**DISCUSSION:** The proposal could increase catch-and-release mortality on spawning king salmon, especially because water temperatures are warming. By the end of July, 99 percent of the fish have passed the weir. Most are looking very red and ready to spawn. Most of the fish that would be harvested are fish that should not be harvested because they are on the spawning grounds. Board prefers to protect this small group of fish that arrive this late.**PROPOSAL NO. 347****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Reduce season and hours of all fisheries on eastside of Susitna River drainage.**DISCUSSION:** This restricts the eastside sport opportunities unnecessarily. Board did not see a biological reason to close the fishery. This could increase over-crowding.**PROPOSAL NO. 348****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Reduce season of all fisheries of the Susitna and Little Susitna River drainages.**DISCUSSION:** The board referenced its discussion under proposal 347.**PROPOSAL NO. 349****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Reduce season of all fisheries in the Susitna River drainage upstream of the Parks Highway Bridge.**DISCUSSION:** The board referenced its discussion under proposal 347.**PROPOSAL NO. 350****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Extend king salmon fishing season and clarify open season dates for streams along the Parks Highway.**DISCUSSION:** During the last five years, with one exception, the department has used EO authority to open additional opportunity on weekends in this area. Department has been monitoring the streams during the season. Adding additional weekends through regulation will be a good test to see if these stocks can support the extra effort.**PROPOSAL NO. 351****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Increase waters of the Kashwitna River drainage open to king salmon fishing.

DISCUSSION: Coho and rainbow trout fishing is already open in these areas. Landowners in the area will be able to harvest a king salmon from their property. No trespass problems have been documented. This will provide additional opportunity; the existing harvest of king salmon is fairly small.

PROPOSAL NO. 352

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Amend the king salmon season in Unit 2 of the Susitna River drainage.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 350.

PROPOSAL NO. 353

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Expand time when multiple hooks are allowed in Unit 2 of Susitna River drainage.

DISCUSSION: Current regulations protect rainbow trout.

PROPOSAL NO. 354

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Expand the season that multiple hooks are allowed in the Lake Creek drainage.

DISCUSSION: This is basically a housekeeping proposal that brings consistency to regulations.

PROPOSAL NO. 355

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reduce bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon and prohibit guided fishing on weekends in the Larson Creek drainage.

DISCUSSION: There is very little guiding on Larson Creek. Effort is primarily from transporters in this drainage. There is no biological concern.

PROPOSAL NO. 356

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Reduce bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon, prohibit guided fishing on weekends, and eliminate the 1,000 foot fishing restriction from mouth of Larson Creek drainage.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 355.

PROPOSAL NO. 357

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow catch-and-release king salmon fishing in eastside Susitna River streams.

DISCUSSION: Most of these systems are on the road system, in high use areas. The proposal would create catch-and-release fishery on spawners, and on small stocks that may be adversely affecting by catch and release mortality. The board also found the proposal too broad.

PROPOSAL NO. 358

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change limit of king salmon season in the Chulitna River.

DISCUSSION: This fishery is already the most liberal of the eastside fisheries and a change may put stocks in small tributaries at risk.

PROPOSAL NO. 359

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Increase waters open to king salmon fishing in the Chulitna River.

DISCUSSION: Increasing open waters may pose enforcement difficulties. There likely is not a harvestable surplus of the small stocks.

PROPOSAL NO. 360

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of bow and arrow to harvest sockeye salmon in Crescent Lake.

DISCUSSION: The board found no need to provide this gear for salmon; hook and line is sufficient.

PROPOSAL NO. 361

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing for jack salmon in waters closed to large salmon.

DISCUSSION: This proposal is consistent with what board has done in other areas of the state.

PROPOSAL NO. 362

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Clarify bag and possession limit of jack salmon.

DISCUSSION: This is a housekeeping proposal that clears up some editorial errors that were made when regulations were reformatted.

PROPOSAL NO. 363

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for coho salmon to three in Cook Inlet streams.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 365.

PROPOSAL NO. 364

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, in Cook Inlet streams.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 365.

PROPOSAL NO. 365

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Increase bag limit for salmon other than king salmon in westside Susitna drainages.

DISCUSSION: Westside Susitna coho returns have recently been strong and effort has been low. Department can use its emergency order authority to close the fishery, if concerns arise. This allows for a small, increased opportunity and the board noted that through other actions it has also allowed small increased opportunity in some of the Northern District commercial fisheries.

PROPOSAL NO. 366

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the bag limit for coho salmon from the Susitna River drainage south to and including Chinitna Bay.

DISCUSSION: The board does not have conservation concerns in this area.

PROPOSAL NO. 367

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, in Susitna River drainage and Knik Arm fresh waters.

DISCUSSION: No action based on action taken on proposal 365.

PROPOSAL NO. 368

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify bag limit for coho salmon in the Little Susitna River.

DISCUSSION: The catch-and-release portion of this proposal would be unenforceable. The department already has tools to restrict or liberalize seasons.

PROPOSAL NO. 369

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of bait in the Little Susitna River.

DISCUSSION: Downstream of the Parks Highway is already one of the most restricted areas in terms of bait. Current coho populations are doing well. The department already has tools to restrict or liberalize seasons.

PROPOSAL NO. 370

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of treble hooks while fishing for coho salmon in the Susitna River drainage south to and including Chinitna Bay.

DISCUSSION: The effort in west Susitna streams is low; the area is remote. There are no conservation concerns, therefore no biological need for this restriction.

Knik Arm**PROPOSAL NO. 371****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Restrict season of all fisheries in the Little Susitna River drainage.**DISCUSSION:** Current regulations provide opportunity and there is no conservation concern for these stocks.**PROPOSAL NO. 372****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit fishing in all flowing waters of the Palmer/Wasilla zone.**DISCUSSION:** There are no conservation concerns. Currently, these are some of the most restrictive regulations in the area. The board also referenced its discussions under proposal 371.**PROPOSAL NO. 373****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Open the Eklutna Tailrace to fishing for kings 20 inches or greater in length.**DISCUSSION:** The department has a successful program that provides opportunity for stocked fish. This takes pressure off of wild stocks. Without this proposal, there would be no opportunity to fish on these stocked fish.**PROPOSAL NO. 374****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Open the Eklutna Tailrace to fishing for kings 20 inches or greater in length.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 373.**PROPOSAL NO. 375****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Create “Kids Only Fishing Days” on Campbell Creek.**DISCUSSION:** Similar to youth-only fisheries that were recently created in Lower Cook Inlet. This fishery will be for salmon. The stocks can sustain a low level of harvest. The board noted there is ample opportunity for other anglers in justification for creating a youth fishery.**Resident Species****PROPOSAL NO. 376****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Amend existing wild trout regulations to conform to statewide standards.**DISCUSSION:** There is no biological concern on these streams.**PROPOSAL NO. 377****ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Increase annual limit for rainbow trout in Susitna – West Cook Inlet stocked lakes.**AMENDMENT:** In stocked lakes the annual limit is ten fish 20 inches or greater in length.**DISCUSSION:** There is a harvestable surplus in stocked lakes. This increase in the annual limit will provide additional opportunity.**PROPOSAL NO. 378****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Increase annual limit for rainbow trout in Susitna – West Cook Inlet stocked lakes.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 377.**PROPOSAL NO. 379****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit retention of rainbow trout in Lake Creek and Little Lake Creek.**DISCUSSION:** The regulation pertaining to stop fishing after harvest of a king already exists and conservative regulations to protect trout already exist in most of the Lake Creek drainage. The current trout plan is effective.**PROPOSAL NO. 380****ACTION: No action****DESCRIPTION:** Require single hook and prohibit the use of bait on Lake Creek.**DISCUSSION:** No action based on action taken on proposal 379.

PROPOSAL NO. 381**ACTION: Carried as amended****DESCRIPTION:** Increase fishing season for Bodenbug Creek and repeal rainbow trout/steelhead regulation.**AMENDMENTS:** Drop the reference to the king salmon portion of the proposal and repeal 5 AAC 61.022(k)(2)(B) which states from April 15 - June 14, rainbow/steelhead trout may not be retained or possessed; rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.**DISCUSSION:** This is a housekeeping proposal. There are no wild trout stocks in Knik River.**PROPOSAL NO. 382****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Repeal the Matanuska River the rainbow trout/steelhead regulation.**DISCUSSION:** This is a housekeeping proposal. There are no wild trout stocks in the Matanuska River. This system carries one of the highest silt loads in the state.**PROPOSAL NO. 383****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Modify hook requirements in fly-fishing only waters.**DISCUSSION:** There is only one fly fishing "only" area in the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area (Wolverine Creek). Provisions are already provided for in regulation. There are no trout conservation concerns at Wolverine Creek. This is overly restrictive.**PROPOSAL NO. 384****ACTION: Carried****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit retention of grayling in the Prairie Creek drainage.**DISCUSSION:** Rainbow in this drainage is already catch-and-release. In spite of lowering the bag limit from five to two, the stocks appear to continue to decline.**PROPOSAL NO. 385****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Allow the use of gillnets to harvest northern pike.**DISCUSSION:** Although the department supports efforts to harvest northern pike, this would require the department to assess all lakes thought to contain pike. The department could not feasibly provide estimates of pike and other lake species abundances on every lake.**West Cook Inlet****PROPOSAL NO. 386****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Allow a harvest of king salmon on the Theodore River.**DISCUSSION:** This year's escapement was below the bottom end of the sustainable escapement goal range. Additional harvest on this river would not be sustainable.**PROPOSAL NO. 387****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit the retention of king salmon in the Chuitna River on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.**DISCUSSION:** There are no conservation concerns for king salmon in this river.**PROPOSAL NO. 388****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Prohibit filleting of fish within one-half mile of Wolverine Creek confluence.**DISCUSSION:** The Wolverine Creek Committee put together a set of guidelines which includes not cleaning fish within one-half mile of confluence. It is working well, and the problem is clearing up. The board found no need to put this provision into regulation.**PROPOSAL NO. 389****ACTION: Failed****DESCRIPTION:** Designate a portion of Silver Salmon Creek as fly-fishing only waters.**DISCUSSION:** There is very little effort in this area; no conservation concerns exist.

SPORT FISHING—OTHER

PROPOSAL NO. 23

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit catch-and-release fishing when there is a conservation concern.

DISCUSSION: The board previously considered this proposal at the November 2004 meeting for the Lower Cook Inlet areas and voted against it. The board does not wish to remove this as a tool for the department to manage the fishery.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Stock of Concern

Board removed Fish Creek sockeye salmon as a stock of yield concern when it reviewed the stock according to the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy.

OEG

Board changed to 5,300 as the lower end range optimal escapement goal on Kenai River early-run king salmon

Emergency Petition Transboundary River Chinook salmon (Southeast Area)

There is a harvestable surplus that would be foregone if action is not taken at this time. The board moved to add final action to its March 2005 meeting agenda.

Letter to Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Committee

Request from Cooper Landing AC, to express support to the Kenai Peninsula Bear Committee for its efforts in addressing human/bear conflict on the Russian River. Board agreed to send a letter.

Request to Support Increased Level of Fines

Board received a request to express recommendation for a mandatory minimum fine of \$500 for failure to record a king salmon harvested from the Kenai River on a sport fishing license. This is similar to wanton waste fines in wildlife violations. Although they supported the concept, the board wanted more information and tasked member Bouse to work with enforcement on final recommendation.